

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Responsive to the communication of October 18, 2004, Applicants provide the following remarks in an effort to address the issues presented by the Examiner. In filing this response, Applicants submit that no new matter has been added to application. Reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested.

Restriction Requirement

A restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. § 121 has been imposed on claims 1-47. Specifically, the Examiner has recognized two inventions:

Invention I – Claims 1-12 and 29-36; and

Invention II – Claims 13-28 and 37-47.

Required Election

To comply with the restriction requirement, Applicants hereby elect without traverse the claims drawn to **Invention I (claims 1-12 and 29-36)** for prosecution on the merits.

Amendment

In accordance with Applicants election of the claims drawn to Invention I (claims 1-12 and 29-36), Applicants have canceled the claims drawn to Invention II (claims 13-28 and 37-47). Applicants submit that inventorship has not been affected by this amendment.

Applicants wish to note that the Examiner did not mention claims 44-47 in the office action; however, since claims 44-47 are drawn to Invention II, Applicants have canceled claims 44-47 to comply with the restriction requirement.

Conclusion

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a timely notification of allowance is courteously requested. If, for any reason, the Examiner is inclined to further reject any of the claims, Applicants requests that counsel be contacted to resolve any remaining issues. Reconsideration is requested and favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



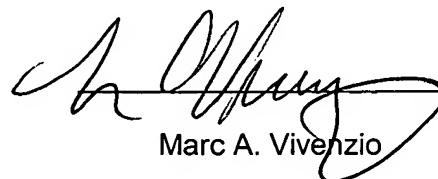
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I hereby certify that this Response and any paper or document referred to therein as being attached or enclosed is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on January 18, 2005.



Marc A. Vivenzio